10/3/76

Mr. Walter Minton
Putnam Books
666 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N.Y. 10019

Dear Walter,

Herewith a copy of my third proposal to Putnam for the reprint of Frame-Up.

Frankly I believe that Putnam and Jaffe would not go for even perpetual life in perpetual youth if I could offer it.

However, I do believe there is a new and prevailing life for this work at this time. And Putnam is Putnam.

Actually the idea was not mine. I do not go into this with Jaffe.

A small distributor is handling some of my Whitewash books, those not close to out of print. He phoned me four, five or six days ago to give me an update. I did not raise the question of Frame-Up with him. He offered the opinion that it would do very well now in reprint.

Regardless of my contrary popular mythology I have done about all the basic work on the JFK assassination. I believe the time is now for a single-volume condensation/reprint. I am without the capability of taking any initiatives with this project. Over the years I've turned down several such offers, wanting to get more into print first, particularly Post Mortem.

I also believe that a paperback condensation of it alone would do very well. I've not had a single bad reaction to it and it has received much praise despite its obvious literary liabilities. I have not kept tabs but if we have not recovered the cost we are close to it. This without my having done a single show on it, placed an single ad for it or campaigned in any other promotions. Only a single-sheet flyer to our mailing list besides the sales my work usual generate. This went to press and I went to the hospital. It was printed while I was hospitalized. For a long time thereafter I was able to do very little. People do not understand this about my work or its commercial potential if handled well. I was not ill, only overly busy, when I brought out Whitewash IV. I placed no ad for it, sent copies to do my show. By radio and radio by phone only I sold enough copies in about two months to recover the manufacturing costs. Since then I've lost it count. It still sells and reading widger. Right now it could because what I have no reason to expect, a potent factor in the close-by election.

Frame-Up is unique in its own way. It handled the most powerful and overturned them. It has withstood the most rigorous testing, of its and my official enemies and the legal system. No error has been established to it. I have found two minor ones, both in my original sources. I'm proud.

I keep hoping to be able to return to the writing of the new King book, tentatively titled The New Conspiracies. Based on the new material I have I could write a little more. My life in court inhibits this. I have three current cases and the government is determined to keep me bogged down. I think the book, with decent editing, will be a popular work that is also an expose and a useful document. It does not duplicate Frame-Up and it will not. Actually, with what I neither have time to seek nor expect, a contract for rapid publication, I am without doubt that I could make it totally safe from any new disclosures and complete the draft if I could get about three free weeks.